

## At-a-GLANCE

- ✓ The Mission Control Center (MCC) remained fully operational during and after the terrorist attacks. The MCC team, which consisted of a “planning shift” staff of required personnel only, ensured the safety of the International Space Station and the Expedition Three crew. “The Mission Control Center has an extensive plan for national emergencies,” Flight Director John Curry said. “Mission Control was constantly in contact with the crew, and all of our communication capabilities were working throughout the events.” Curry praised the team for how they handled themselves under the tense conditions.
- ✓ The next scheduled JSC blood drive is Oct. 16 at Ellington Field from 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. There will also be a drive in the Teague Lobby on Oct. 17 and 18 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Blood drive coordinator Teresa Gomez said because donors have to wait at least eight weeks between donations an emergency drive would not be scheduled to assist the needs in New York City and Washington, D.C. The previous blood drive was Aug. 1 and 2. For those wishing to donate immediately there are several blood donation drives within the Houston area.
- ✓ Charles Edward “Chuck” Jones, a retired U.S. Air Force officer who was trained as an astronaut, was among the 92 victims of American Airlines Flight 11, according to space.com. Jones, who was chosen in 1982 for Group 2 of the military’s Manned Spaceflight Engineers (MSE) program, was assigned to fly STS-71L scheduled for August 1987 to assist the deployment of two Department of Defense payloads. His flight however, was canceled after the *Challenger* accident in January 1986. After leaving the MSE program in January 1987, Jones was stationed at Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, D.C., and then as Systems Program Director for Intelligence and Information Systems at Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford, Mass. The Boston Herald reported he was on the flight for a routine business trip.



NASA JSC 2001e26814 Photo by James Blair



NASA JSC 2001e26824 Photo by David DeHoyos

The JSC family shared its message of support for the survivors, rescuers and those related to victims in Washington, D.C. and New York City by signing large banners that were posted at sites along the JSC campus perimeter. At left, Acting Center Director Roy Estess is the first to sign his name. Above are just a few of the many employees who stopped by the Teague Auditorium to show their support.

## Center Operations responds promptly to unfolding events

By Melissa Davis

As the day’s tragic events unfolded, JSC management was quick to respond to the escalating national emergency, said Joel Walker, Acting Director of Center Operations.

“Senior Staff met Tuesday morning and made the decision for an orderly evacuation so as to not create any additional safety concerns,” Walker said.

Walker said they activated the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) immediately after the staff meeting concluded. He added the flags went to half-staff that day.

“Senior staff convened again Tuesday afternoon to discuss JSC’s posture, and again throughout the day on Wednesday to discuss options, security measures etc.,” Walker said.

Center Operations Directorate personnel staffed the EOC throughout the next two days and nights in order to keep constant communications with NASA headquarters and other agencies.

While the events of Sept. 11 have put an added emphasis on security at JSC, employees have been cooperative.

“Everyone has been very patient with the increased security measures and we are working hard to smooth out the wrinkles,” Walker said.

### A timeline of how JSC responded to the events of Sept. 11

#### Tuesday, Sept. 11

Initially, JSC was placed on an elevated level of alertness. However, as the morning’s events unfolded, JSC instituted further heightened security measures. At that time, the Human Resources Office encouraged supervisors to make liberal accommodations for any employee who might have family members impacted by the events, and the Employee Assistance Program was available to those in need of counseling.

A short time later, the decision was then made to close JSC as a precaution “in view of the multiple terrorist attacks in other US metropolitan areas,” the JSC Emergency Notification System noted.

#### Wednesday, Sept. 12

JSC was reopened for limited operations. The only ones who reported for duty were those who have been specifically requested to return. The main entrance off Saturn Lane and the back gate near Space Center and Bay Area boulevards were the only gates open for entrance.

#### Thursday, Sept. 13

JSC returned to normal operations with heightened security measures in place.

NOTE: As a federal agency, NASA falls under the military’s threat levels as risks or incidents unfold. The military’s four threat levels are Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta. Each have a set of increasingly restrictive security precautions. Considerations include the movement of people, visitor identification, vehicle checks and the offset of allowed parking next to facilities and buildings.

## Security tightened after attacks on Washington, D.C., New York City

By Beth Nischik

The terrorist attacks in Washington, D.C. and New York City have understandably heightened security at JSC.

“The center is not in eminent danger, yet we will not relax security until further notice,” said Vernon Nixon, JSC’s Chief of Security.

Security tightened immediately following the Sept. 11 events. “I am in awe of the way the Center came and worked together during the closing,” Nixon said. “Both the closing and the opening of the Center went smoothly. Security had the support of the entire Center.”

Nixon said JSC staff members have been cooperative with the additional security precautions taken since the attacks.

“My only concern is that people do not get complacent with the actions and procedures being put into place,” he said. “The traffic, long lines and security checks may be an inconvenience now, but it is a small price to pay for the safety.”

JSC employees are encouraged to be mindful of what

the security staff is doing. “Security is looking for the cooperation of the JSC employees to be aware of these procedures through the Roundup, internal Web sites and by their own actions.”

Nixon recommends that employees arrive 30 minutes earlier or later than normal for a smoother entry to the Center during the mornings. He also suggested people review their security procedures, such as shutting down their computers every day.

With support from the JSC staff, the security staff will be much more effective.

“There are many patriotic people here at JSC. When the chips are down, I have seen this center and JSC really come together,” Nixon said. “Our job right now is to protect our national assets here at JSC: Those employees that work here and our buildings. Security asks for employees’ cooperation and patience during this time.”

For up-to-date security information, please visit:  
<http://www4.jsc.nasa.gov/scripts/org/ja/ja14/external/index.cfm>